

Testimony of

Hannah Gariepy

Aspiring Educator

Before the

Education Committee

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Good afternoon, Senator McCrory, Representative Currey, Senator Berthel, Representative McCarty, and members of the Education Committee.

I testify today in support of House Bill 6884. This bill takes important steps toward addressing the educator shortage in Connecticut, showing educators that theirs is a respected profession, and ensuring that our classrooms and schools can provide the best possible education for our students.

edTPA is a useless, time-wasting tool for determining whether or not an already qualified individual can become a teacher. After going through 4 years of undergraduate school and being required to obtain a Master's degree on top of that, edTPA is just a way to deter professionals from joining the field, something that could be detrimental to future students considering the current teacher shortages. The cost and time commitment of edTPA is completely unreasonable to ask of young aspiring teachers and may turn some away from the field because of how inaccessible it can be. We should be opening up the field of education to all qualified professionals, and requiring aspiring teachers to pay for and jump through another hoop before they can get there is completely unfair. The mere fact that edTPA is owned and operated by Pearson, a private company who already charges schools for curriculum and materials, should tell you that they are doing this purely for financial benefit and not for the benefit of the students learning in classrooms today. edTPA is a looming presence above me as I complete my coursework, participate in internships and student teaching, and work to pay for my degrees. Going through all of this work and spending all of this money to become a qualified professional in the field of education and having all of my worth become dependent on one assessment of my abilities is so discouraging. I've also talked with veteran teachers about the new implementation of edTPA and they thought it was preposterous and said they 'wouldn't become teachers if they had to go through that.' I think this is reason enough to abolish edTPA and lift this weight off the shoulders of all aspiring educators.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

